that business instinct should find no difficulty at all in picking up experience for administering a municipality. At the same time, there is something in what you say that a vakil or a school master, or a landlord, when called upon to undertake this civic function may be at a loss for some time. Your suggestion is worth considering therefore.

You referred to the training of subordinates and how the outside staff should be placed on a different footing from the inside staff, and that they should be taught the necessary subjects, sanitation being one of the subjects. These are matters which I think are better left to the discretion of the Municipalities. You suggest that a central office, or training centre, be opened for the training of these men. It is a matter for the Municipalities of Travancore generally to put their heads together, and, by combind effort, to establish a training institute for their own assistance.

You suggest that the number of local bodies should be increased. Personally I do not think the multiplication of such bodies in each centre is called for. We are now having the roads and canals board and, when occasion arises, possibly in connection with minor irrigation, we shall endeavour to see what agency will best suit those needs. As I observed in reply to another member it is only in South Travancore that we have villages proper. In the rest of Travancore, they are all scattered homesteads. Whether bodies such as you suggest will be adaptabie to those areas is a doubtful question.

While the member was making his representation, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, one of the former Dewans of Travancore, who had come to Trivandrum on the invitation of the public in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Assembly, entered the hall. He was received by the Dewan and seated on the dais. Mr. Madhava Rao was present till the proceedings of the day closed.

187. Responsible Government in Travancore.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISWANATHA PILLAI (*Member Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that the future prosperity of Travancore depended upon the establishment of responsible government. The foreign Dewans who ruled in Travancore were able to ruin the interests of the country, because they were not responsible to the people. One foreign Dewan had granted the Kannan Devan Hills, covering about one-thirtieth of the total area of the State, to a European company on a nine hundred and ninenty-nine years' lease. Another foreign Dewan had placed the water of the Periyar river at the disposal of the British Government for a trifling consideration. Under the Interportal Trade Convention concluded with the British Government about the year 1040, Travancore was losing over a lakh of rupees every year. Again, a foreigh Dewan had undertaken to waste Travancore money on the Cochin Harbour. No administrator would dare do any of these things in a country where the Government was responsible for its actions to the people.

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The public service also had degenerated a great deal for want of a responsible form of Government.

In order to remedy these evils a Government that was responsible to the people should be established in the country.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Viswanatha Pillai, I will give a collective reply on the subject of responsible Government to all the members who may speak now on the subject.

188. Constitutional reforms.

MR. P. N. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) prefaced his representation by expressing the gratitude of the country towards Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, the founder of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. He then said that in British India, the people were agitating for "Dominion Status". While that part of India was progressing in this manner, it was not proper that the Indian States should remain unchanged. In respect of education, Travancore was in the fore-front of Indian States and was quite fit for responsible Government. The establishment of such a Government would only redound to the credit of the Ruler. It would also help to put down the communal quarrels which were vitiating the political atmosphere of the country. The constitution and powers of the Legislative Council should therefore be revised as also of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. An Executive Council should also be established.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Pillai, I will deal collectively with all the representations on the subject of constitutional changes after all the members have spoken on the subject.

189. Constitutional reforms with reference to the existing self-governing institutions in the State.

MR. V. SANKARA MENON (*Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) pointed out that the Municipal Councils Regulation made no distinction between big municipalities like that of Trivandrum with a revenue of a few lakhs of rupees and small municipalities like that of Colachel or Haripad whose income did not exceed a few hundreds of rupees. The result was that the efficient working of the Trivandrum municipality was hampered in many ways. It was highly necessary that the constitution of the Council should be re-modelled on up-to-date lines. There should be a Chief Executive Officer appointed for the municipality, while the council should have the right of electing its own president. The functions of the two officers should be carefully allocated. The Council should be enabled to co-operate with the Government in the matter of water-supply, street lighting, drainage etc. The grant formerly paid to the municipality should be restored. If this was not practicable, the municipality should be allowed a portion of the land and abkari revenue derived by Government from the municipal area.

A committee should be appointed to investigate and report on the feasibility of bringing out a uniformity in municipal laws and proceedure.

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